

## Notice

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Official Character  
Bora-chan

## TOPICS

- Message from Mr. Hirofumi Ichisaka (OFIX Board Member)
- Activity Report about Cross-Cultural Awareness Education Supporters' Classes
- Global Voices
- Announcing our new Twitter account!

## Keep in mind, 'Be natural and trust your instincts' in everything!

Senior Executive Director of International Relations at the Osaka Prefecture,  
Board Member for the Osaka Foundation of International Exchange

Hirofumi Ichisaka



My name is Ichisaka, I am the Senior Executive Director of International Relations at the Osaka Prefecture, and a board member for the Osaka Foundation of International Exchange. Daily, I am a point of contact for urban diplomacy with the Consulate-Generals in Osaka and Kansai, the embassies of various countries in Tokyo, and other foreign government agencies. I act as a liaison, coordinating Osaka Prefecture's international relations measures, such as courtesy visits by foreign dignitaries with the governor and exchange projects with friendly exchange partner local governments.

Previous Directors of International Relations have had a wide range of backgrounds, including directors who had experience living overseas, transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or came from private companies. I have no experience studying or living abroad, but a quick look back on my work history shows a wealth of international related matters that I have been involved with for the prefecture. These matters include things such as economic and business relations, attracting international conferences, port promotion, inbound tourism and exchange programs with Osaka's sister cities. Furthermore, up until last year, I was working on inviting international participants for the 2025 Japan World Exposition Association. Through these varied work experiences, I have built many relationships with people from all over the world.

Every time I have been involved in international work, I have felt the

importance of language and also having an understanding of each different country's histories and cultures. Also, I think it has been even more important for me to always do my best to trust my instincts. For example, I had the following experience. When I was in charge of a tourist information center, I proposed the establishment of a new Chinese language service, but according to a performance report, it was not necessary because most of the visitors used English. Without trusting my instincts, I might have thought that was a good enough explanation, however I wasn't convinced, so I visited the site and asked the director of the center about it. He said that only English speakers came because they only had signs in English. He continued, if we put up Chinese signs, we would be swamped with Chinese speakers. Even things that we are familiar with can be mixed with invisible biases. Especially between different cultures, if you don't make an effort to consciously observe, you may not notice the barriers that lurk beneath. I hope that OFIX and everyone involved in promoting multicultural coexistence in Osaka Prefecture will be able to use even a part of my experience as an example to learn from. Let's pool our wisdom and work together. Now, don't be nervous, take the weight off your shoulders, be natural and trust your instincts!

IN  
OFIX

## Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

A free consultation service for foreign residents.

### 【Consultation Hours】

Monday and Friday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (excluding holidays)  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
(excluding holidays)  
Second and fourth Sundays of each month: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### 【Professional Consultation】

Professional consultations and labor consultations with a public notary or lawyer  
\*Appointment required

### 【Languages available】

English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Indonesian, Nepali, Japanese, Russian, Ukrainian

### 【E-mail】

jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp  
(only in Japanese and English)

### 【FAX】

06-6966-2401  
(only in Japanese and English)

### 【URL】

<https://www.ofix.or.jp/life/japanese/>



TEL 06-6941-2297

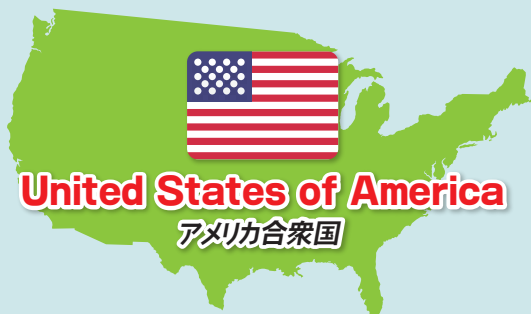


# We dispatched foreign supporters to Shijokita Elementary School in Daito City!

On Thursday, September 8, we sent Cross-Cultural Awareness Education supporters from the United States and Mongolia to Daito Municipal Shijo Kita Elementary School.

Do you want to try bringing the world to your classroom? Please try OFIX's Cross-Cultural Awareness Education Program!

For details, Please see [About Supporter Activities]  
<https://www.ofix.or.jp/supporters/>



The supporter introduced differences and commonalities between the working styles and cultures of the United States and Japan. For example, in the U.S. workplace, the relationships between bosses and employees are not as strict as those in Japan. However a common point is that both countries work too much and take time very seriously. Besides for talking about work culture, they also shared how to make and play the classic American game, paper football.



The supporter introduced Mongolian food and animals for the students. After their presentation they had the students experience the Mongolian game called "Shagai". The students said that the class was interesting and that they were able to learn a lot.

"I want to do something for the children and students in Osaka!"

"I want to practice and use my Japanese!" and "I want many people to know my country and people!"

**Why don't you introduce your country to the children of Osaka?**



Official Character Bora-chan

## OFIX International Understanding Education Foreign Supporters Wanted!

Would you like to introduce your country's history, culture and share your traditional clothing, musical instruments or games with the students of Osaka and contribute to making multicultural coexistence a reality in Japan? We are always looking for more OFIX Cross-Cultural Awareness Education Supporters!

### Who can become a Cross-Cultural Awareness Education Supporter?

1. Foreign nationals or those with roots abroad, living, studying, or working in the Kansai region
2. Those who want to introduce their country at schools in Osaka Prefecture
3. Those who have Japanese ability to present in Japanese (N3)

\* Permission to engage in activities outside your status of residence might be required depending on your status of residence.  
\* We will give you an honorarium of 6,000 yen (including transportation and tax) per school visit.



For details, please refer to "Supporter Activities"  
<https://www.ofix.or.jp/supporters/>

**Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)**

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# Global Voices



**Name:**

**Caleb Boivin**

**Nationality:**

American

**Self-introduction:**

My home state is Georgia. I enjoy weightlifting and exploring new cities to find cool coffee shops. I am also a Pastor at Hope Osaka Christian Church in Imazato.

## Why did you decide to come to Japan?

I never felt like I belonged in America. However, when I first visited Japan I felt that I had found the right place for me.

## Was there anything that surprised you when you came to Osaka?

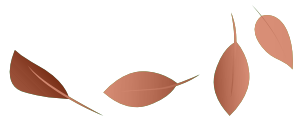
I am from a really small country town. So when I came to Osaka it took me some time to adjust to living in a giant city like Osaka. However, now I love it! I never want to live in the countryside again.

## Were there any problems you faced when you came to Osaka?

Yes. Filling out all of the paperwork for the government and city hall is very difficult for foreigners. Especially because when I first moved here I did not know any Japanese.

## How do you feel about being a supporter?

I love being a supporter because I am jealous that I did not get to grow up in Japan. So I enjoy getting insight to what it's like for people who do get to grow up here.



Caleb's recommended:

## Fried Okra

Fresh okra is sliced and coated in seasoned cornmeal, then fried until golden and crispy in this simple recipe!

### Ingredients:

- Okra
- Egg
- cornmeal/flour
- Oil (to fry with)
- Seasonings for flavor (Salt, Black Pepper, Cayene Pepper/ Red Chili for spice)



### Recipe:

1. Cut the okra into bite-sized pieces and soak them in a beaten egg.
2. Meanwhile, combine the cornmeal/flour and seasonings in a small bowl.
3. Coat the egg-soaked okra in the cornmeal/flour mix, coating completely.



Make sure to fully coat the okra before frying it!

4. Heat the oil over medium-high heat. Place the coated okra in the oil and fry the okra while stirring continuously. Reduce the heat when it starts to brown.
5. Cook until golden and drain on paper towels.
6. Serve on a plate.



We started   
a Twitter account  
in September!



Official Character  
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We have opened an official OFIX Twitter account!  
We'll post the latest information and notifications  
about OFIX, so if you're interested, follow us!

Account Name: OFIX Osaka Foundation of International Exchange  
username: @OFIX\_JP



OFIX Osaka Foundation of International Exchange  
@OFIX\_JP



この度、OFIX公式のTwitterアカウントを開設しました！  
OFIXに関する最新の情報、イベント通知等お届けし  
ますので、よろしく願いたします！

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On November 23 (Wednesday, National Holiday), the "International Friendship Festival" will be held at the Kansai International Center!

There will be various events organized by the southern regional international exchange associations and organizations! You can interact with people from different countries who are staying and training at the Kansai International Center. If you are interested, please join!

Date & Time: Nov. 23 (Wed.) 13:00~16:00

Venue: Kansai International Center \*Details will be posted on OFIX's website at a later date.

## We are looking for supporting members!

Annual membership: 50,000 yen for corporate members,  
3,000 yen for individual members

<https://www.ofix.or.jp/donate/>

- ◆ Provision of OFIX's printed materials, reports and other publications free of charge or on a priority basis
- ◆ OFIX News (quarterly) containing information on OFIX's activities and international exchange
- ◆ 50% off banner advertisements (for corporate members with two or more accounts)

*Donations to public interest foundations are eligible for tax benefits*

## Want your banner to shine on our page?

Japanese page: 11,000 JPY banner/month

<https://www.ofix.or.jp/banners/>

English page: 5,500 JPY banner/month

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For comments and suggestions, go to

▶ [info@ofix.or.jp](mailto:info@ofix.or.jp)



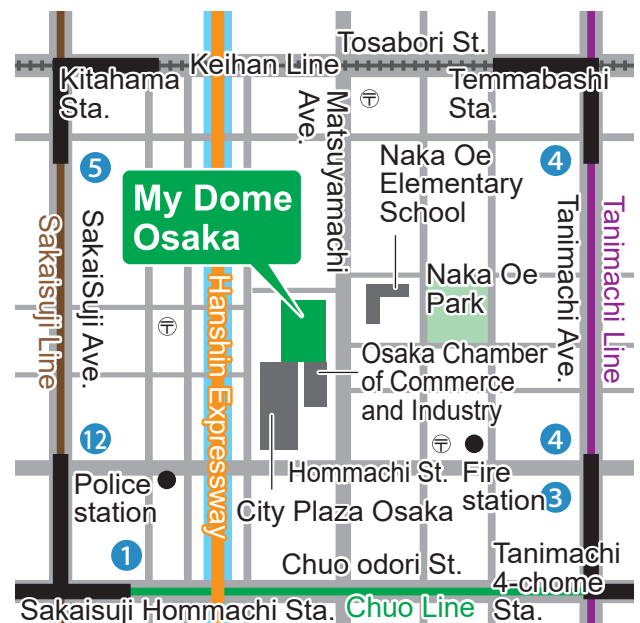
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## Access



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